

**Lebanon Township Committee  
June 3, 2015**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Thomas McKee called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that in compliance with the "Open Public Meeting Act" this is a Regular Meeting of the Township Committee as published in the Hunterdon Review, the agenda has been posted at the Municipal Building and distributed to the Hunterdon Review, Courier News, the Express Times, the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Star Ledger.

**FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor McKee asked everyone to please stand for the Flag Salute and for a Moment of Silence in remembrance of Mr. Ernest Race.

**ROLL CALL**

Present -                    Thomas McKee                    Ronald Milkowski                    Bernard Cryan  
                                 Brian Wunder                    Marc Laul

Absent-

Also Present - Attorney Dick Cushing, Clerk Karen Sandorse and 27 members of the public.

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 20, 2015**

*Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved minutes of the regular meeting of May 20, 2015.*

**Minutes of the Executive Session of May 20, 2015**

*Motion by Mr. Cryan, seconded by Mr. Laul and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved the minutes of the executive session meeting of May 20, 2015.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – for agenda items only.**

*Motion by Mr. Cryan, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee opened the public comment portion of the meeting.*

Mr. Anthony Casale asked if the concrete blocks that are listed as an agenda item are the bin blocks from the DPW garage. Mayor McKee stated that yes they are the bin blocks. Mr. Casale noted that he

believes there is a history with the disposal of the bin blocks and does not feel that it is fair that the Township Committee has changed and there are only two members remaining who know the history. Mr. Casale asked for Mr. Milkowski and Mr. Wunder to provide an accounting of the issue. Mayor McKee stated that the matter will be discussed later on the agenda.

Mr. EJ Skidmore asked if they are the blocks that were removed from the DPW building construction site by Mr. Milkowski, in April 2011, with the help of the DPW employees and Township equipment. Mayor McKee stated that Mr. Skidmore was correct; however, he does not believe his statement to be factual.

Mr. Skidmore said that he would like to proceed with the matter on a factual basis. Mr. Skidmore stated that if someone says something they should be made to produce the facts. Mr. Skidmore stated that Mr. Milkowski is known for his "frugality" when it comes to spending of Township funds. Mr. Skidmore said that Mr. Milkowski should be commended on being diligent in watching how the Township's money is used. Mr. Skidmore stated that Mr. Milkowski somehow had three Township employees, on two different afternoons, load 50 bin blocks onto his trucks and took them to his property. Mr. Skidmore noted that Mr. Milkowski had stated that this was done to save the blocks for future use in the Township. Mr. Skidmore said that the Township DPW kept 25 bin blocks and located them on Township property for the Township's future use. Mr. Skidmore questioned why Mr. Milkowski needed to take 50 additional bin blocks to his property and hold them for 2 years, without the Committee being aware of it. The Committee was not made aware until a few weeks after the matter had been reported to the Hunterdon County Prosecutors office. Mr. Skidmore stated that when Mr. Milkowski informed the Committee that he had the blocks, he valued them at \$2.00 each. He determined the value based blocks that were auctioned off from a company that was going out of business. Mr. Skidmore stated that a friend of his was looking for bin blocks at that time and Mr. Skidmore was informed that there was a person with a Glen Gardner phone exchange selling 50 bin blocks for \$50 each on Craigslist. Mr. Skidmore stated that he found that routinely bin blocks are sold on Craigslist, for \$50 each, and new blocks cost \$65 each, without shipping. Mr. Skidmore noted that the concrete blocks are 2' x 2' x 6' long, reinforced with rebar and have a hook on top to be moved and stacked with heavy equipment. They weigh 3300 lbs. each. Due to this, shipping costs would be considerable. Mr. Skidmore said that at \$2 each, times 50 the total cost for the blocks would be \$100. Mr. Skidmore stated that the cost for the use of the Township's personal and equipment and the time it took to move the blocks to Mr. Milkowski's property would equate to possibly \$1000 - \$1500. Mr. Skidmore questioned the economics of it. Mr. Skidmore asked the Committee to be fair and ethical to the Township. He would like them to remove the friendships from the issue and determine if there was some impropriety that needs to be amended.

Ms. Tamara Dunning asked if all present will be able to speak under New Business, with regard to Unkempt Properties in the Township, as she was the only resident listed on the agenda. Mayor McKee stated that there are quite a few residents present and the Committee will do their best to let everyone make their comments.

*Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Mr. Cryan and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee closed the public comment portion of the meeting.*

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution No. 42-2015 – Professional Services Appointment – Tax Map Maintenance/Updates**

*Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Mr. Cryan and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Resolution No. 42-2015 as written below. The Contract is not to exceed \$10,000.00 without further approval of the Mayor and Committee*

TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON  
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION NO. 42-2015  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE APPOINTMENT

WHEREAS, there exists a need for Professional Engineering Services for Tax Map Maintenance and Updates in the Township of Lebanon, and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) required that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for “Professional Services” without competitive bids must be publicly advertised; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, Township Clerk and Chief Financial Officer are hereby authorized and directed to execute the agreements; and

WHEREAS sufficient funds are available in the 2015 Municipal Budget for the Township of Lebanon for such services.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, in the County of Hunterdon, on this 3rd day of June, 2015 as follows:

Heritage Consulting Engineers is hereby appointed to provide professional land surveying and drafting services to maintain and provide updates to the Lebanon Township Municipal Tax Map for the year 2015.

**Resolution No. 43-2015 – 2014 Audit**

*Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Mayor McKee and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved Resolution No. 43-2015 as written below. AYES: McKee, Milkowski, Laul, Cryan  
NAYS: Wunder*

TOWNSHIP OF LEBANON  
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION NO. 43-2015

**GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2014 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and,

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WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and,

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations, and,

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and,

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and,

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board, and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Township Committee of the Township of Lebanon, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Concrete Blocks**

Mayor McKee stated that the issue of the bin blocks has been reviewed by the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's office. There were concerns raised by residents as to how the blocks were removed from the Township. Mayor McKee stated that he understands that the blocks were viewed as construction waste or garbage by the Prosecutor. Mayor McKee stated that there was some discussion at the construction site regarding the blocks; however, he does not know who the individuals were in the discussion. Subsequently, Mr. Milkowski removed the salvage blocks from the DPW site. Mayor McKee stated that a resident filed a complaint saying that Mr. Milkowski stole the blocks. Mayor McKee noted that he does not believe that to be the fact but others disagree with him. Mayor McKee stated that it has been more than two years and there was an investigation by the Prosecutor's office in March 2013. It was determined that there was no criminal intent. The Prosecutor asked for the Township Attorneys opinion and a lesson on how to properly dispose of public property. Mayor McKee stated that the Prosecutor's decision did not satisfy everyone and the matter went back again for his review. The Township was advised that the Prosecutor was looking into that issue; however, the Committee has not heard anything back since that time, in 2013. Mayor McKee said that the Committee has since found out that a concerned resident has contacted the State Senator to ask for assistance in the investigation of the issue. The State Senator referred the matter to the Attorney General. The resident who issued the complaint received notification from the Attorney General or from the Senator's office suggesting that the matter be returned to the original letter from the Prosecutor. Mayor McKee stated that in his opinion, 2 years have passed and many have investigated the issue. The matter has now come

back to the Committee again. The Prosecutor feels that the blocks are garbage and need to be disposed of by the Township properly.

Mr. Wunder stated that his opinion differs vastly from the Prosecutor who is politically appointed by the Governor and the Attorney General. Mr. Wunder feels that the Prosecutor took a narrative made by Mr. Milkowski. Mr. Wunder stated that if he had conducted a true investigation the Prosecutor would know the value and significance of the block. Mayor McKee asked Mr. Wunder if he feels that the Prosecutor "shirked" his duties. Mr. Wunder stated that he does believe so and feels that there are political overtones and it "ripples from the Township, through the County, to the State". Mr. Wunder asked if the blocks are garbage why would Mr. Milkowski want them and why would he use his truck and trailer to move them to his property. Mr. Wunder asked Mr. Milkowski who asked or told him to take the blocks. Attorney Cushing advised that it would be best for the Committee members to make comments as opposed to questions being asked. Mr. Wunder stated that it all about authorization; who authorized Mr. Milkowski to take the blocks?

Mr. Milkowski stated that he was at the DPW garage, prior to the start of construction. He was approached by the DPW Supervisor who informed him that he had a few blocks that he needed to move as they were in the way of the construction. Mr. Milkowski stated that "the bulk" of the blocks were used in the salt shed that was to be demolished. Mr. Milkowski stated that it was specified in the construction contract that the contractor was responsible to dispose of the blocks. The first few were placed around the building. Mr. Milkowski stated that the DPW Supervisor, Warren Gabriel, asked if he knew of anyone who would be interested in taking the blocks that he did not keep. Mr. Milkowski stated that he told Mr. Gabriel that he could help him out. Mr. Milkowski stated that he figured that the DPW would have a need to use them again for bins. He figured why dispose of them and then have the need to purchase more. Mr. Milkowski stated that the DPW loaded 5 or 6 blocks onto his trailer. Mr. Milkowski noted that when the contractor heard that he had taken some of the block, he asked if he could dispose of more. Mr. Milkowski's thought was to take enough for five bins and store them on his farm, since there was no room on the construction site. Mr. Milkowski stated that the contractor then loaded the blocks and noted that the DPW did not load anymore. They only loaded the blocks that they needed to be moved out of the way. The contractor then again asked if Mr. Milkowski needed more and he said that he would not take anymore because they were not needed. The contractor then piled some of the block in the back of the site and disposed of some. The contractor never did dispose of the pile he had left. Mr. Milkowski stated that when the new contractor took over the project, the Township had to dispose of some of the blocks and some were left. They ended up using 25 of the blocks. Mr. Milkowski questioned that if the contractor disposed of all of the blocks as he was supposed to by contract, where would the Township get the 25 blocks from that they are using now? Mr. Milkowski stated that that was the purpose of him taking them and noted that they are still piled where he unloaded them. Mr. Milkowski stated that he has now contacted the Mayor to say that he has been storing the blocks for the Township for a while but he now needs the space. This is why the issue is before the Committee at this time. Mr. Milkowski stated that when the complaints came in it was always around election time. He feels that the block complaints are nothing more than political. Mr. Milkowski stated that as the liaison for DPW he thought that if the Township could use the blocks in the future, why dispose of them all?

Mr. Wunder asked whether the Township paid for the blocks to be disposed of through the contract. Mr. Milkowski stated that the Township did pay to have the blocks disposed of and the building demolished but the contractor never did it.

Mr. Wunder stated that as a Committeeman Mr. Milkowski should not have taken the block. Mr. Milkowski stated that he did not take them, he was storing them. Mr. Wunder stated that in 2013 meeting minutes it states, multiple times, that the DPW does not need additional blocks as the DPW Supervisor retained what he needed. Mr. Wunder stated that the blocks should have gone out to bid.

Mayor McKee stated that he does not believe that anyone thinks that the blocks should not be put out for public bid. Mayor McKee stated that in the history of the matter, prepared by Attorney Cushing, he offers suggestions on how to properly dispose of the blocks, as per the Prosecutor's recommendations.

Mr. Wunder stated that he is one of many contractors in the Township who was denied the opportunity to bid on the blocks. Mr. Wunder stated that he does not believe that the blocks would still be at Mr. Milkowski' if no one brought this to the Prosecutor's attention. He does not believe that he was storing them. Mr. Wunder stated that the DPW Supervisor and Mr. Milkowski have said, on many occasions, that they blocks were not needed. Now bringing them back will cost the taxpayers more money to dispose of them.

Mayor McKee stated that he feels that the blocks need to come back and be disposed of lawfully. Mr. Wunder suggested that Mr. Milkowski bring the blocks back to a location other than the DPW site. Mayor McKee stated that that cannot be done and noted that as an elected official the public trust is what is most important. The perception of a Committeeman having the blocks could be wrong. Mayor McKee said to end the issue the Committee needs to bring the blocks back to the Township and auction them off.

Mr. Cryan asked if there were any items to auction in the near future. Mr. Gabriel stated that there is nothing at this time. Mr. Cryan stated that the blocks are the Townships and proposed that Mr. Milkowski needs to return them to the Township, at his cost, to be auctioned off. Mayor McKee agreed with Mr. Cryan's comments. Discussion was held on the places where the blocks can be stored until they are auctioned off; possibly the rear parking lot in the park or the Diane Glass property. Mr. Milkowski stated that it may not be safe to stack them.

Mr. EJ Skidmore stated that he signed the complaint against Mr. Milkowski with the Prosecutor's office. He accused him of stealing the bin blocks in violation of state criminal statutes. Mr. Skidmore stated that he was a police officer for 31 years and has been exposed to investigations. Mr. Skidmore said that he was in close correspondence with the Prosecutor during the investigation. The investigation consisted of contacting a person who is an advisor to the Committee and the Township Clerk to obtain copies of records that Mr. Skidmore had submitted, to verify their truth. Mr. Skidmore noted that within a few weeks of the filing of the complaint and the conversation that occurred between the Committee advisor and the Prosecutor's office, Mr. Milkowski came forward stating that he had the blocks. Mr. Skidmore said that the Prosecutor accepted Mr. Milkowski's story without any additional investigation. Mr. Skidmore noted that there are three or four witness that can tell how Mr. Milkowski gained knowledge of the blocks and how he took them. Mr. Skidmore stated that the Prosecutor ignored the "illogic" of Mr. Milkowski's story. Mr. Skidmore stated that the matter of where the blocks should be located needs to be put to rest as it does not matter where they are located, it does not affect the act. Mr. Skidmore stated that the Prosecutor did a horrible investigation. Mr. Skidmore noted that the value of the block is \$50 each, used, but based on the contract, the concrete blocks were to be recycled and their weight measured. The Township would then receive credit under the Clean Communities Act which would have been money back to the Township.

Attorney Cushing stated that Mr. Skidmore was referring to him when he spoke of the Committee advisor who had a conversation with the Prosecutor's office. Attorney Cushing stated that he feels that Mr. Skidmore is off base as the Hunterdon County Prosecutor is an extraordinary prosecutor. He does a very good job and must screen what are political accusations as opposed to claims of criminal conduct. Attorney Cushing said that he is disappointed with Mr. Skidmore making the statements that he did against the prosecutor. Prosecutor Kearns is highly regarded by the Freeholders and law enforcement officers. He is the highest ranking law enforcement officer in the County who all police officers in the County report to. Attorney Cushing stated that in addition, the Attorney General's office is highly regarded also. Attorney Cushing stated that he feels that it is off base to say that the Attorney General or the County Prosecutor is not capable or is somehow politically driven. Attorney Cushing stated that he feels that comments such as Mr. Skidmore's are inappropriate and undermine government and he feels that they have no place in a municipal gathering. Attorney Cushing stated that individuals need to have respect for law enforcement. Attorney Cushing noted that this is his opinion and he feels that Mr. Skidmore is way off base.

Mr. Wunder stated that he agrees with Mr. Skidmore's comments. Mr. Wunder noted that Attorney Cushing's opinion has ultimately resulted in the Township paying out \$6000. This is due to Mr. Skidmore requesting copies of Attorney Cushing's bills and the redaction of such being sent to the Government Records Council for their ruling.

Attorney Cushing stated that Mr. Wunder is referring to Mr. Skidmore submitting a significant number of OPRA requests for invoices from his office.

Mr. Cryan stated that wherever the Committee decides to put the blocks, safety needs to be the first item considered. He feels that the Glass property may be a good location.

Mayor McKee stated that lawfully the blocks need to be returned to the Township.

*Motion by Mayor McKee, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee demanded that AS Milkowski and Son return the 50 bin blocks to the Township, at their cost, to a destination to be determined, by the next meeting. AYES: Wunder, McKee, Laul, Cryan ABSTAIN: Milkowski*

### **Food Pantry**

Mr. Cryan stated that he met with representatives from the State regarding the use of an area of the Hagedorn Property for the Food Pantry. It appears that a spot has been selected. Mr. Cryan said that the State is putting together paperwork for review. Mr. Cryan called Ruth from the Food Pantry and she is very excited.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Tamara Dunning – Unkempt Properties in the Township**

Ms. Tamara Dunning informed the Committee that she has been a resident of Lebanon Township for almost 30 years and she and her husband have raised their two children here. They are looking to sell

house and buy something smaller in the Township. There are two houses in her neighborhood that are in terrible condition. One of the homes has been collecting junk for possibly 50 years. Also, 10 years ago a gentleman moved into the house next to them and has accumulated things, such as, a junk boat, junk cars and lumber. Recently, over a month and a half timeframe, the neighbor cut up a car and placed it in recycling bins. Ms. Dunning stated that she came to the Township to see the Zoning Officer about the issue and was informed that there is no ordinance in place to prevent such a thing. Ms. Dunning noted that she spoke to the neighbor on numerous occasions and got nowhere. Ms. Dunning stated that when looking for a house in the Township she found many places in terrible condition. Ms. Dunning's realtor informed her that people would not come to see a house that was for sale in her development because of the junky houses at the end of the road. Ms. Dunning stated that she and other individuals took a number of pictures around the Township and provided copies to the Committee to view. Ms. Dunning also provided the Committee with a letter from the Appraiser Association of the United States and also from New Jersey. The letters state that property values are 10% less when there are neighbors with unkempt properties. Ms. Dunning stated that this puts her in a bad situation as she is not in a position to lose money. Ms. Dunning read a letter that she sent to her neighbors regarding the issue. Ms. Dunning told the Committee that she does not understand why the Township does not have ordinances to prevent these sorts of problems. Lebanon Township is not completely a farming community, there are residential neighborhoods.

Ms. Dolores Papp stated that she has been in Township for 50 years, raised her kids here and loves the Township. The Township schools and people are great. Ms. Papp stated that she agrees with Ms. Dunning. Some of the homes have been there for a long time and the owners have been there for a long time also. It is hard to approach them and ask them to clean up their yards. Ms. Papp informed the Committee that she looked at the Township's ordinances and feels that they would be able to address the issues of junk. The ordinances cover items such as unlicensed vehicles, which would cover junk cars and motor homes, as they are prohibited on private property. Ms. Papp stated that the interpretation in the ordinance of Junk Yards is exactly what is in the neighbor's yards. The properties are not licensed Junk Yards but they look like junk yards. Ms. Papp stated that she agrees that people should be able to do as they please with their properties; however, not when others have to look at it. She feels that the junk will encourage rodents. Ms. Papp informed the Committee that she has a sister who was an appraiser for years. When she rode around the Township with Ms. Papp she said that the Township is losing property values because of the unkempt properties. Ms. Papp stated that the ordinances relative to littering covers the areas of concern also. Ms. Papp stated that trees were cut down and have been laying down for a year and half and not removed. Ms. Papp stated that it appears that the Township does not need to establish an ordinance, it just needs the existing ones to be enforced.

Mayor McKee stated that the residents need to meet with the Zoning Officer to discuss their concerns. He will then go out and view the property to determine if the issues are defined in the Township's ordinances.

Mr. Wunder asked how many properties were viewed as a problem. The response was a lot.

Mr. Skidmore stated that in his experience he found that the County Health Department is also a good agency to contact if the property attracts vermin.

Ms. Dawn Pascale stated that she has been a lifelong resident of the Township and she and her husband decided to raise kids here. Ms. Pascale and her husband have been looking to move for two years and

wanted to stay in Lebanon Township because their children attend that school. Ms. Pascale spoke to Mr. Flemming regarding several abandoned houses and properties with collections of items in their yards. Mr. Flemming did not have an answer for her grievance. Ms. Pascale stated that the ordinance pertaining to no parking on Voorhees is not enforced. She has asked the high school kids to move their cars as they litter along the roadway. Ms. Pascale has contacted the Police Department and the high school regarding the problem. The high school has been helpful in having the students move. Ms. Pascale stated that if there are ordinances in place then there needs to be the proper people in place to enforce them. Ms. Pascale stated she and her husband have now decided to move out of the Township due to property values that are being decreased due to the debris and clutter on most roads and areas in the Township.

Attorney Cushing stated that the Governing Body and Clerk can bring the concerns raised to the Zoning Officer as well as to provide him with the minutes of the meeting. Ms. Pascale stated that she has spoken to the Zoning Officer and he does not have an answer. It is concerning that property values are going down because of the problem. She finds it disturbing that she is going to take a financial hit because of the appearance of the street.

Ms. Tamara Dunning stated that it was suggested to her and she considered putting the flyer she wrote on Facebook but thought that it would bring too many people to the meeting and it would get out of hand. Ms. Dunning noted that those in attendance are a small group of people who have talked about the issues; however, she thinks that there are many more in the Township that feel the same way. Ms. Dunning stated that she has met with the Zoning Officer, 5 times in 8 years, and her husband has once. They were informed that there are no ordinances to address the issue. Ms. Dunning feels that in looking at the ordinances it appears that there is a miscommunication with the Zoning Officer, who is wonderful. He listened to Ms. Dunning's concerns and said that if there was something that was enforceable he would be happy to do so. Mr. Flemming suggested that Ms. Dunning attend that Committee meeting to state her concerns. Ms. Dunning stated that if there are ordinances in place they need to be cleaned up so Mr. Flemming can enforce them.

The Mayor McKee stated that he will speak to Mr. Flemming and that he should review the minutes of the meeting to see if the situation can be resolved.

Mr. Laul asked if the Zoning Officer keeps a log of the complaints he receives. The Committee agreed that it is a good suggestion.

Mr. Daniel Eddy stated that prior to moving to the Township he reviewed all of the Codes on line. It appears that the new residents want to change how things have been in the Township for years. He has heard this from residents who have lived here for many many years. Mr. Eddy stated that although there is an issue in a particular neighborhood, that he was not aware of, he does not feel that it is the Township's job to tell people how to live and how to keep their property. Mr. Eddy said that there are plenty of options or codes in place to deal with the issues; putting more restrictions on the residents is not the answer.

Ms. Dunning asked if the Committee will discuss the issue and respond to it at a later meeting. Mayor McKee stated that he will first speak with the Zoning Officer and review the ordinances to see how to proceed.

Mr. Cryan asked if the pictures were taken from the public street or did someone gain access to another resident's property? Ms. Dunning said that the pictures were taken from a public street. Attorney Cushing stated that if there is evidence of vermin they should call the County Department of Health. Ms. Dunning stated that she has not witnessed any vermin.

Ms. Donna Summers stated that she has been a resident for close to 28 years and said that if the pictures were published on Facebook it could lead to a lot of problems. Ms. Summers noted that if the flyers were put in mail boxes, and they did not receive approval from the post office, it is a federal offence. Ms. Summers stated that residents should govern themselves. If someone has a problem with a neighbor hoarding it should be brought to the police department. People should not walk around taking pictures. Ms. Summers stated that she pays taxes and she feels that she should have, what she has, on her property. Ms. Summers stated that she has a wheelbarrow and a boat on her property. She wants to know if she will be told that she cannot keep a covered boat on her property. Ms. Summers noted that the Township is not a land association, that pays dues, and questioned if people are going to start telling the residents what drapes they can hang? Ms. Summers said that people who are hoarders are an exception but she does not believe that residents who have things in their side yards or backyard should be policed.

Ms. Papp stated that there is no objection to people having a boat, a motorhome, a wheelbarrow or anything that belongs on a residential property. They are strictly speaking about junk and garbage. The pictures that were taken did not go on the web or Facebook. They were taken and brought to the municipal office. Ms. Papp believes in the right for everyone to do as they choose on their property but not disposing of garbage is a problem.

Mr. Milkowski stated that in future residents need to stay on public property when taking pictures. In looking at them it appears that it would have been difficult for them to be taken from the road.

Ms. Dunning stated that the photos that were taken were taken with a zoom lens. She would never trespass on someone else's property.

### **Resignation – Head Library Clerk**

*Motion by Mr. Cryan, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee accepted the resignation of Wendy Harding with regret.*

### **July and August Meetings – One Meeting Per Month**

*Motion by Mr. Cryan, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee canceled the July 15, 2015 and August 17, 2015 Committee meetings.*

### **Recycling Coordinator Memo - Electronic Collection Event**

Mr. Laul stated that he would like to speak to the Recycling Coordinator regarding the Electronic Collection Event. The matter is tabled to the next meeting.

### **Eagle Scout Award Ceremony**

Mayor McKee stated that the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 92 will hold an Eagle Court of Honor this weekend, Sunday June 7, 2015. There are two Scouts from the Township that will be honored, Quinn Levy and Eric Pecina. Mr. Laul will attend on behalf of the Township Committee. The Mayor and Clerk will prepare a cover letter for Mr. Laul to present at the meeting stating that the Committee intends to adopt proclamations for the achievements they have made.

### **Califon Bridge Closure**

Mr. Laul stated that the Califon Bridge will be closing for repair. Mr. Laul asked the DPW Manager if the closure will affect the paving on Raritan River Road. Mr. Gabriel stated that it has not been discussed yet but the traffic will need to be redirected.

### **PRESENTATION OF VOUCHERS**

Committee Members provided a description of vouchers exceeding \$1000.00.

*Motion by Mr. Laul, seconded by Mr. Cryan and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee approved the June 3, 2015 bill list in the total amount of \$68,426.24.*

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Recreation Commission April 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Motion by Mr. Cryan, seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee opened the public comment portion of the meeting at 8:26 p.m.*

Ms. Marion Hoag stated that she has lived on River Road for 6 years and she works from home. Mr. Hoag informed the Committee that Raritan River Road has become a hazard to humans and wildlife. During rush hour people are cutting through from Califon or Hoffman's Crossing Bridge. They are speeding; geese have been killed and dogs have been injured. The area in which Ms. Hoag lives is a 25 mph zone and roadwork has just been done. It is now a great place to speed. Ms. Hoag asked if it would be possible to have a police study conducted or to have police stationed on the roadway in unmarked cars. Ms. Hoag also stated that the residents would like speed bumps installed. Mr. Milkowski will speak to the Police Chief about the complaints.

Ms. Laurie Hoffman asked the Committee if they can discuss old business items at each meeting to be sure that the matter does not go by the wayside. Mayor McKee stated that he will do the best he can.

Ms. Hoffman asked about that status of grants. Mr. Wunder stated that the person he had to assist with the grants became disinterested, he is not sure about Mr. Milkowski's individual.

Mr. Anthony Casale thanked all for a history on the bin blocks and stated that the issue appears to be moving in a positive direction. Mr. Casale suggested storing the blocks in more than one location if possible. Mr. Casale asked if the problems with the new DPW garage, such as drainage, have been corrected and if so who paid for it. Mayor McKee stated that smaller issues were corrected; however, the drainage issue has not been. The Township received a price from engineer to fix the problem and the price seemed exuberant. Mayor McKee stated that he is not sure of what adjustments the DPW Supervisor has made in bringing trucks in and out. Mayor McKee stated that the matter was on hold because there were others issues to be addressed, such as a leaking chimney and water coming in from under the front door. These items have been corrected by the contractor. Mayor McKee said that it is very difficult to get the contactor back to fix problems. Mr. Casale stated that the most recent contractor posted a performance bond and questioned if the surety would require them to come back. Attorney Cushing stated that the question is whether the contractor's performance was the problem or was the source of the problem from something else. Mayor McKee and Mr. Milkowski stated that the tolerance of the floor was within the margin of error within the AIA Contract. Mr. Casale stated that he thinks it should be taken care of. Mr. Milkowski noted that when questions were raised about the floor, before the building was built, the architect said that they would take care of it but apparently did not.

Mr. EJ Skidmore stated that after the March 6, 2013 meeting, where Mr. Milkowski stated that he had the blocks and was storing them, the story did not sit right with the three Committee people that were on the Committee at that time. Mr. Skidmore stated that he is no longer alone in pursuing the complaints against Mr. Milkowski as the three other, previously elected officials, have joined him in his mission. Mr. Skidmore stated that he agrees with Attorney Cushing's opinion relative to Prosecutor Kearns and did not intend to disparage him. He is a good, decent, honest man but he still feels that the investigation he conducted regarding the blocks was less than competent. Mr. Skidmore believes that Prosecutor Kearns started off wrong and then continued with an investigation that was not handled as a police investigation should be.

Mr. Skidmore told the Mayor that he did an excellent job handling two difficult topics this evening.

*Motion by Mr. Wunder, seconded by Mr. Cryan and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Township Committee closed the public comment portion of the meeting at 8:40 p.m.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to come before the Committee a motion was made by Mr. Cryan seconded by Mr. Wunder and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:41p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen J. Sandorse, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk

Approved: June 17, 2015

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Thomas McKee, Mayor